



May 18, 2023

Dear Senator Erin Murphy and Rep. Sandra Feist:

The Minnesota Association of Professional Employees (MAPE), a union representing over 16,000 state workers across all of Minnesota's agencies, boards and commissions, respectfully urges you to pass the S.F. 1561/ H.F. 1700, the Keeping Nurses at the Bedside Act.

Over the course of the legislative session, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) worked with numerous stakeholders and legislators to craft a narrow, thoughtful approach to addressing our health care system's staffing shortages, worker burnout, and safety issues, currently known as Keeping Nurses at the Bedside Act. They have earned bipartisan, bicameral support in the legislative process.

Keeping Nurses at the Bedside Act is a common-sense solution that brings staff and hospital management together to address pervasive staffing, scheduling, and safety concerns and create a plan with regular reporting. This proposed type of structure and process is similar to what state workers have in the Joint Labor Management committees and safety workgroups, which ensure that employees have manageable caseloads and schedules and that patients receive the best quality care.

MAPE members are proud to serve alongside our dedicated nurses in Minnesota's state facilities, providing health and therapeutic services to our most vulnerable and challenging communities. Their professionalism and tireless commitment to quality and compassionate care in public and private health facilities are remarkable. We ask you and our legislative leaders to stand in solidarity with our nurses, who've worked through our democratic legislative process to pass Keeping Nurses at the Bedside Act.

Sincerely,

Megan Dayton, MAPE President